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NO. 37APPROVED
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AUTHORITY

HOUSE of SECRETS

8/15

THE EARTHMAN
DOESN'T REALIZE THAT
MY CAPTURE WILL LEAD TO
HIS OWN DESTRUCTION!

**"SECRET
of the
CAPTIVE
CREATURE!"**



A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY

Test your talent!



Contest prize:
\$495.00 Scholarship
in Commercial Art

Draw your choice of any one of these heads. Draw it any size except like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters contest gets a professional estimate of his talent without charge. Winner receives a complete art course—free training in advertising art, illustrating, cartooning, or painting. Try for this free art course! Students are taught, individually, by professional artists on the staff of world's largest home study art school. Illustrated art textbooks come with the course. Many former students now earn upwards from \$150 a week as commercial artists. Contest is sponsored to uncover hidden talent. Entries for October 1960 contest must be received by October 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Winner notified. Mail your drawing today.

Use 1 coupon—then pass this page on to a friend.

3. Art Instruction, Inc., Studio 8500 500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____ AGE _____
Occupation _____ Apt. _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____
County _____ State _____

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Occupation _____ Apt. _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____
County _____ State _____

IT WAS THE MOST FANTASTIC ASSIGNMENT EVER HANDED ANYONE ON EARTH--TO BRING BACK ALIVE A DANGEROUS ALIEN CREATURE! BUT MARK MERLIN, INTREPID SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, FIRST HAD TO BECOME A PRISONER HIMSELF, BEFORE HE COULD UNCOVER...

THE SECRET OF THE CAPTIVE CREATURE!

GREAT SCOTT!
HE--HE'S MELTING
DOWN MY WEAPON
WITH A MORE
POWERFUL RAY GUN!
HOW CAN I POSSIBLY
CAPTURE THAT
CREATURE?



A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY

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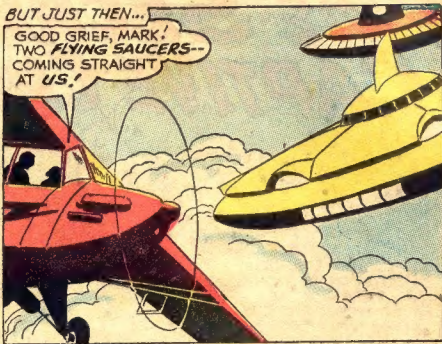
ONE DAY, AS MARK MERLIN, FAR-FAMED SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, PILOTS HIS PLANE HOMEWARD, AFTER SOLVING ANOTHER CASE...

WELL, ELSA, I THINK WE'RE ENTITLED TO A NICE, LONG VACATION, AFTER THREE TOUGH CASES IN A ROW!

SECOND THE MOTION, MARK.

BUT JUST THEN...

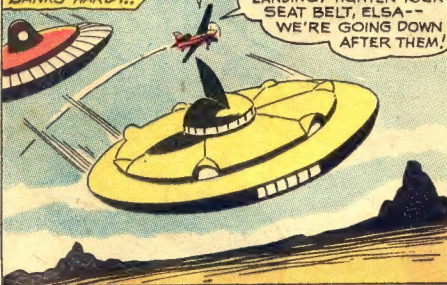
GOOD GRIEF, MARK! TWO **FLYING SAUCERS**-- COMING STRAIGHT AT US!



AS THE ALERT DETECTIVE BANKS HARD...

MISSED US!

YES... BUT THEY'RE HEADING DOWN FOR A LANDING! TIGHTEN YOUR SEAT BELT, ELSA-- WE'RE GOING DOWN AFTER THEM!



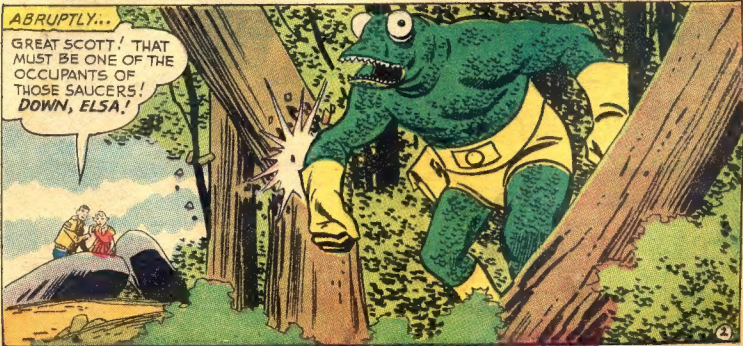
UPON ALIGHTING IN A SMALL CLEARING...

THIS IS PRETTY ROUGH COUNTRY, MARK--THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THEM?



ABRUPTLY...

GREAT SCOTT! THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE OCCUPANTS OF THOSE SAUCERS! DOWN, ELSA!



MOMENTS LATER, AS THEY GAPE INCREDULOUSLY AFTER THE RAMPAGING CREATURE...

WHAT'LL WE DO, MARK? GET OUT OF HERE PRONTO-- AND NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES!

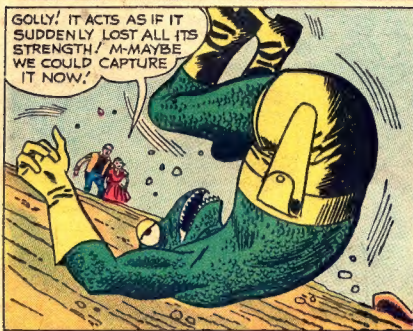


SUDDENLY...

LOOK, MARK--IN THAT BED OF FLOWERS, THE CREATURE IS STUMBLING.



GOLLY! IT ACTS AS IF IT SUDDENLY LOST ALL ITS STRENGTH! M-MAYBE WE COULD CAPTURE IT NOW!



NO--TAKE ANOTHER LOOK, ELSA--IT'S OBVIOUSLY RECOVERING FROM WHATEVER WAS AILING IT! LET'S GET BACK TO THE PLANE!



BUT AS THEY RE-TRACE THEIR STEPS...

MARK! THAT MUST BE THE ONE WHO WAS IN THE OTHER SHIP-- AND HE'S BLOCKING OUR WAY!

WE'LL HAVE TO DETOUR-- THROUGH THIS PASS!

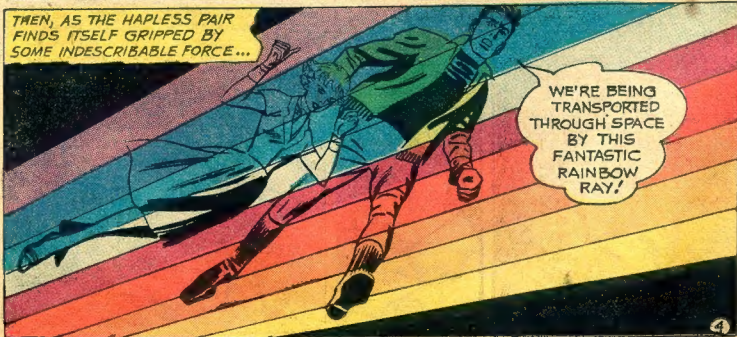
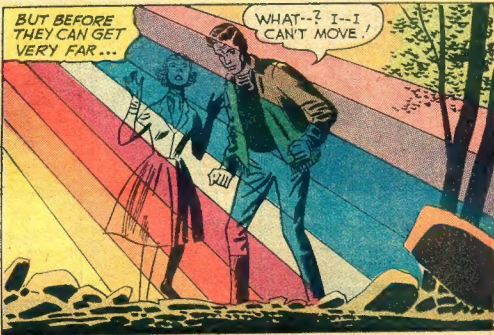
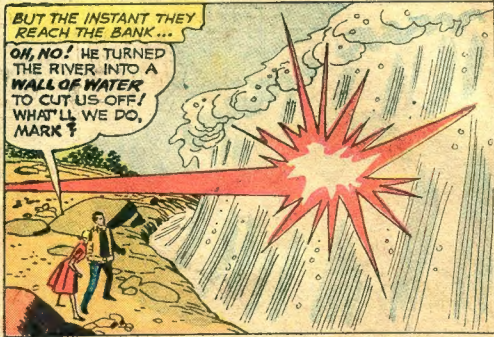


WHEN THEY TRY, HOWEVER...

GREAT THUNDER! HE USED HIS WEAPON TO SLAM THE HILLS TOGETHER-- CLOSING THE PASS!

CRASH!

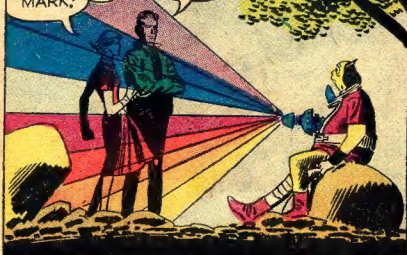




FACE TO FACE THEY COME WITH THEIR ALIEN ADVERSARY...

I--I GUESS THIS IS OUR END, MARK!

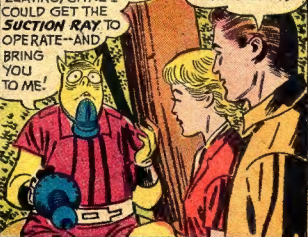
STEADY, GIRL!



BUT TO THEIR RELIEF...

HAVE NO FEAR, EARTH FRIENDS! I MERELY WISHED TO PREVENT YOU FROM LEAVING, UNTIL I COULD GET THE **SUCTION RAY** TO OPERATE--AND BRING YOU TO ME!

WHY... HE'S SPEAKING TO US THROUGH SOME SORT OF **SPEECH TRANSLATOR!**



YES--I AM FROM THE PLANET XARDEL--OF ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM! I WAS PURSUING A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL FROM A NEARBY PLANET--AND THE CHASE LED US HERE!

WHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF... WE THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT TO GET **US!** BUT WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER THE CRIMINAL?

AS YOU CAN SEE, I INJURED MY LEG WHEN **LANDING!** **YOU** MUST DO IT FOR ME!

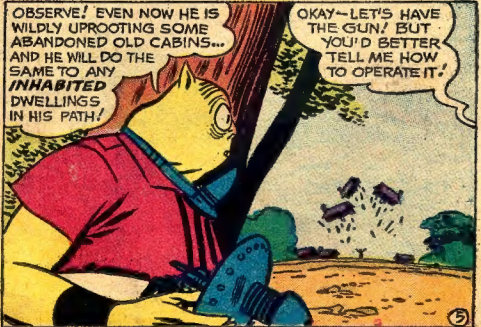
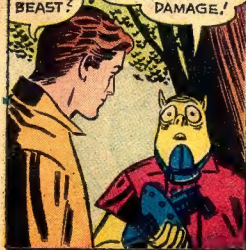


ARE YOU KIDDING? HOW CAN I CAPTURE THAT BEAST?

WITH MY **MULTI-PURPOSE WEAPON!** BUT YOU MUST HURRY--BEFORE HE CAUSES GREAT DAMAGE!

OBSERVE! EVEN NOW HE IS WILDLY UPROOTING SOME ABANDONED OLD CABINS... AND HE WILL DO THE SAME TO ANY **INHABITED DWELLINGS** IN HIS PATH!

OKAY--LET'S HAVE THE GUN! BUT YOU'D BETTER TELL ME HOW TO OPERATE IT!



THUS, BEFORE LONG, MARK MERLIN FINDS HIMSELF ON THE STRANGEST ASSIGNMENT OF HIS CAREER...

NOT SO FAST, ELSA! FROM THE LOOK OF THOSE FRESH PRINTS, I'D SAY THAT ALIEN WASN'T FAR OFF!



WITHIN MINUTES...



THERE HE IS, MARK!

I'LL GET OFF A SHOT WITH THE STUN-RAY!

BUT AS MARK'S ALIEN WEAPON BARKS...

GOOD GRIEF! THE CREATURE IS DEFLECTING YOUR SHOT!



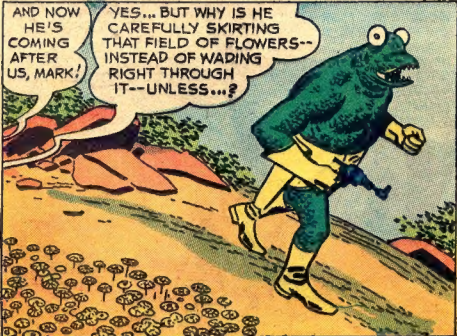
AND BEFORE THE ACE ADVENTURER CAN FIRE AGAIN...

GREAT SCOTT! HE--HE MELTED DOWN THE WEAPON IN MY HANDS!



AND NOW HE'S COMING AFTER US, MARK!

YES... BUT WHY IS HE CAREFULLY SKIRTING THAT FIELD OF FLOWERS-- INSTEAD OF WADING RIGHT THROUGH IT--UNLESS...?



MARK--COME BACK! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO PICK SOME DAISIES!



AND SOON, ELSA ENCOUNTERS AN ASTONISHING SIGHT...

MARK! THE ALIEN IS WEAKENING! WHY?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ELSA—THIS CREATURE IS ALLERGIC TO DAISIES!



OF COURSE!...THAT'S WHY HE COLLAPSED AND ROLLED DOWN THE EMBANKMENT FROM THAT FLOWER FIELD, WHEN WE FIRST SAW HIM!

EXACTLY! I'M GLAD I REMEMBERED THAT INCIDENT IN TIME! — NOW, ELSA, RACE BACK TO THE PLANE AND GET SOME ROPE!



SO, PRESENTLY...



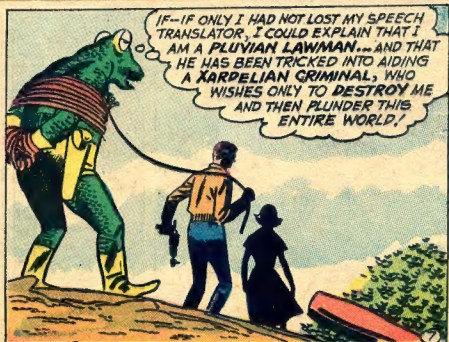
THERE... I'VE FASTENED SOME DAISIES TO HIS BODY, AND I'VE RELIEVED HIM OF HIS WEAPON!

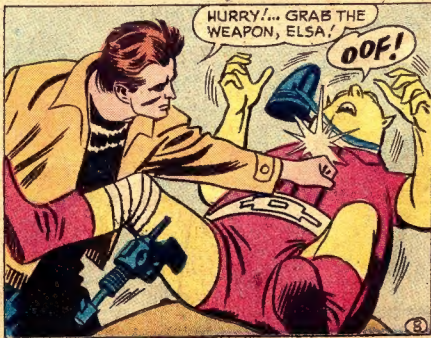
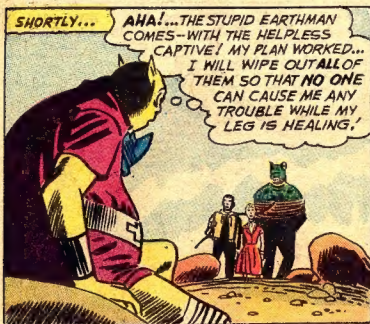
BUT UNKNOWN TO MARK, GRIM THOUGHTS FILL THE MIND OF THE CAPTIVE...

THE EARTHMAN... HE DOES NOT REALIZE THAT BY CAPTURING ME, HE IS DOOMING HIS WORLD!



IF--IF ONLY I HAD NOT LOST MY SPEECH TRANSLATOR, I COULD EXPLAIN THAT I AM A PLUVIAN LAWMAN... AND THAT HE HAS BEEN TRICKED INTO AIDING A KARDELIAN CRIMINAL, WHO WISHES ONLY TO DESTROY ME AND THEN PLUNDER THIS ENTIRE WORLD!





YOU SEE, UNTIL I WAS ABSOLUTELY SURE WHO WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, I WAS TAKING NO CHANCES—AND TEMPORARILY REMOVED THE FIRING MECHANISM!



NOW I'LL JUST BORROW THIS SPEECH TRANSLATOR!



SHORTLY, AS THE PLUVIAN LAWMAN COMPLETES HIS STORY...

...AND I WAS UPROOTING THOSE BROKEN-DOWN CABINS IN THE HOPE OF FINDING THE CRIMINAL LURKING IN ONE OF THEM!



WELL...I'M SURE GLAD I DECIDED TO PLAY IT SAFE!

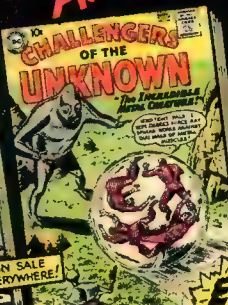


AND NOW, FAREWELL! I SHALL TELL MY PEOPLE ABOUT MY FRIENDS ON EARTH!

I'D LIKE TO TELL MY PEOPLE ABOUT YOU... BUT I WONDER HOW MANY WOULD BELIEVE ME!

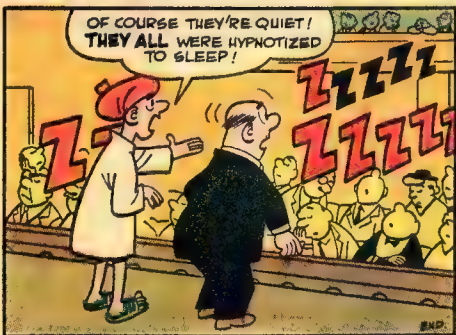


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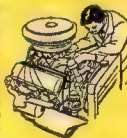


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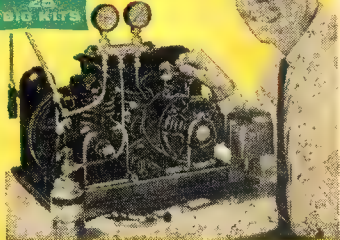


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THE EYE WAS WATCHING US-- ALL OF US! LIKE SOME GREAT, UNBLINKING HUNTER, IT SOARED ACROSS THE SKY, SEEKING OUT ITS STRANGE TARGETS... BUT BEHIND THAT EERIE, PEERING VISITOR WERE THE TRUE ATTACKERS! ONLY ONE TASK FORCE STOOD BETWEEN EARTH AND THESE WEIRD ENEMIES... THE COURAGEOUS MEN WHO CARRIED OUT...

OPERATION CYCLOPS



THAT HAND...
IT'S CRUSHING
OUR TANK LIKE
A TOY!

AND WE CAN'T STOP
IT... NOT AS LONG AS
THAT EYE CAN SEE
US AND DIRECT
THE HAND!



IT COMES WITHOUT WARNING, THAT FIRST SIGN OF THE COLD TERROR ABOUT TO GRIP THE WORLD...



LOOK!...
UP IN THE SKY...
THAT GIANT
MECHANICAL
EYE!

WHAT IS
IT? WHAT'S
IT DOING
THERE?

WITHIN MINUTES, THAT STRANGE EVENT FANS THE SPARKS OF HUMAN FEAR INTO FLAME...

THERE IS NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT... THIS EYE
OVER OUR CITY IS A
SPY SATELLITE,
LAUNCHED BY
AN ALIEN FROM
OUTER SPACE!

THE STRANGE EYE CAN HOVER IN ONE PLACE—
OR STREAK AROUND THE WORLD AT
UNEARTHLY SPEED...

SEE?... IT SPIES
ON US, TOO!
NOBODY IS
SAFE FROM
IT!

BEFORE LONG, WITH EVERY NATIONAL AIR FORCE
ALERTED, THE WEIRDEST SKY CHASE IN HISTORY
BEGINS...

THERE IT IS, CIRCLING
THAT SKYSCRAPER! LET'S
GET IT!

ROGER
WILCO!

BUT THE BATTLE PROVES AMAZINGLY
ONE-SIDED...

WOW!... THAT THING SHOT
PAST US LIKE A ROCKET!
WHAT KIND OF FUEL
COULD IT BE
USING?

NOTHING
FROM
THIS
WORLD,
I'M SURE!

ZHOOM

YET THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING--FOR ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING...



SOON, AT AN EMERGENCY MILITARY MEETING...

I'M DR. DAVID SCOTT, A SPECIALIST IN ROBOT MACHINES! THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN GIVEN CHARGE OF OPERATION CYCLOPS!

YOU MEAN, YOU THINK THIS EYE AND HAND ARE PARTS OF A SINGLE GIANT ROBOT?

EXACTLY, GENERAL MOHR...THE EYE SCOUTS FOR THE HAND! WHY THE ROBOT OPERATES IN PARTS, I DON'T KNOW... BUT WHEREVER THE EYE APPEARS, THE HAND FOLLOWS--SO NEXT TIME, WE'LL BE READY FOR THEM!



A SHORT WHILE LATER, AT A FEDERAL PENITENTIARY...

IT'S THE 'EYE' PHONE THAT GUY SCOTT--THE ONE HEADING OPERATION CYCLOPS! HE ASKED THE WHOLE COUNTRY TO COOPERATE!

RIGHT!

SWIFTLY, A STRANGE TASK FORCE SURROUNDS THE PRISON!

WE'VE GOT THE TWO ROCKET TRUCKS AND THE STEEL NET YOU WANTED, DR. SCOTT!

GOOD... DEPLOY THEM AT EACH END OF THE MAIN WALL! THE GUARDS SAID THAT THE EYE SEEMED TO BE CONCENTRATING ON THAT WALL!

HARDLY ARE THE VEHICLES POSITIONED WHEN...

LOOK!... THIS TIME, THE EYE IS SCOUTING FOR A GIANT FOOT! THAT THING IS BIG ENOUGH TO CRUSH US ALL! PREPARE ROCKETS FOR FIRING!

NEXT MOMENT...

THERE THEY GO, SCOTT! NOTHING CAN OUT-MANEUVER THOSE GUIDED MISSILES!

YES... BUT CAN THE ANTI-SUBMARINE NET WITHSTAND THAT MONSTER FOOT?

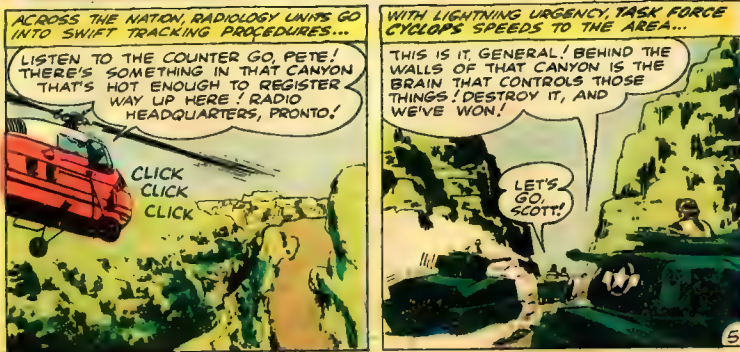
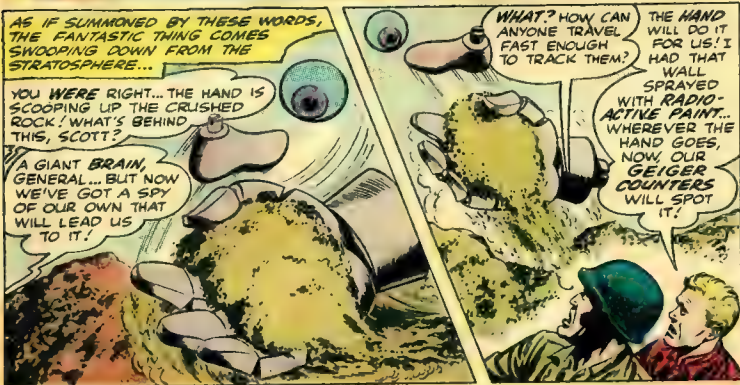
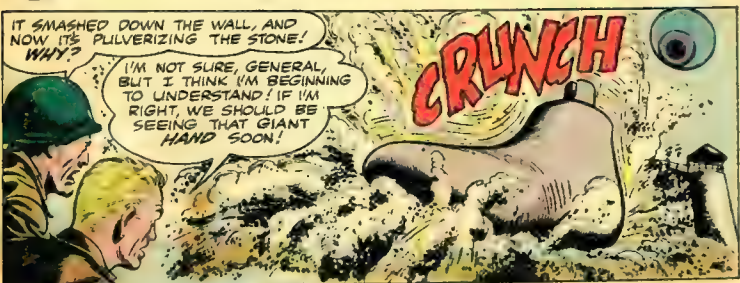
THE ANSWER COMES WITH SHATTERING FORCE...

IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE NET... AND NOW IT'S HEADING FOR THE WALL!

CRASH

WITH DEVASTATING IMPACT, THE GIANT ROBOT FOOT STRIKES THE PRISON WALL!

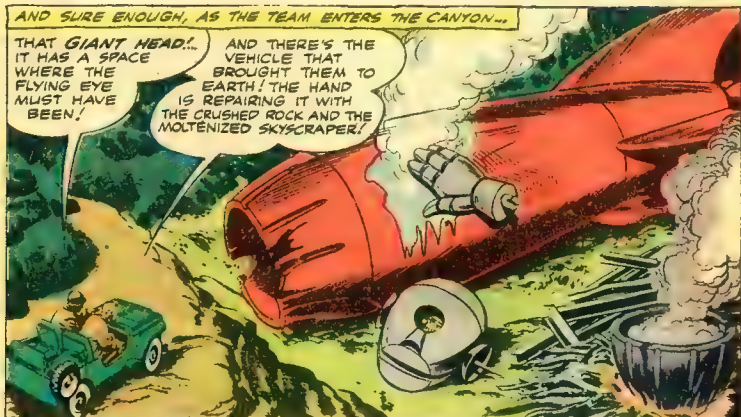
WAAAA



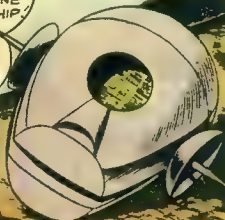
AND SURE ENOUGH, AS THE TEAM ENTERS THE CANYON...

THAT GIANT HEAD!
IT HAS A SPACE
WHERE THE
FLYING EYE
MUST HAVE
BEEN!

AND THERE'S THE
VEHICLE THAT
BROUGHT THEM TO
EARTH! THE HAND
IS REPAIRING IT WITH
THE CRUSHED ROCK AND THE
MOLTENIZED SKYSCRAPER!



THERE MUST'VE BEEN ONE
GREAT ROBOT IN THAT SHIP.
WHEN IT CRACKED UP,
THE BODY WAS SMASHED
INTO THESE PARTS...BUT
EACH COULD STILL
OPERATE ON ITS BUILT-
IN CIRCUITS. THIS
WHOLE NIGHTMARE
IS AN EFFORT BY
THE ROBOT TO
REPAIR ITSELF AND
ITS SHIP...

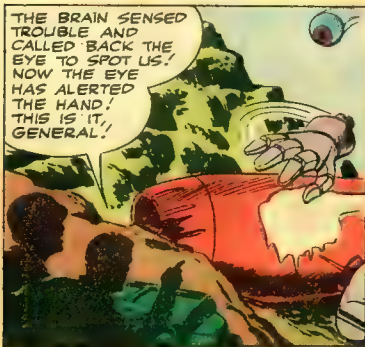


...BUT WITHOUT THE
EYE, THE BRAIN IS
SIGHTLESS! WE'D
BETTER STRIKE
RIGHT NOW!

TOO
LATE!
LOOK
UP
THERE!



THE BRAIN SENSED
TROUBLE AND
CALLED BACK THE
EYE TO SPOT US!
NOW THE EYE
HAS ALERTED
THE HAND!
THIS IS IT,
GENERAL!



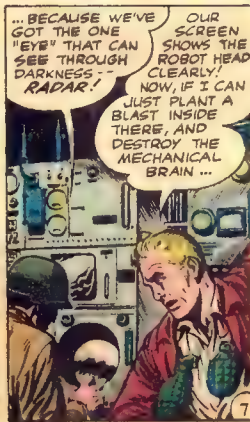
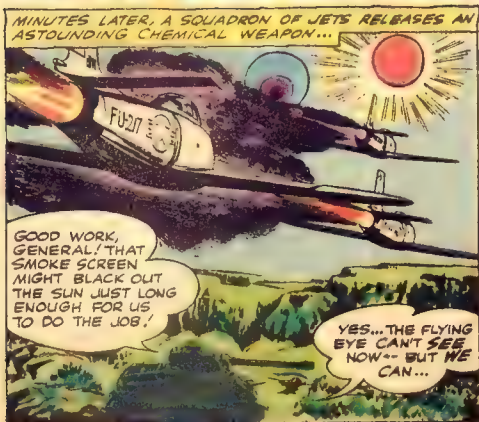
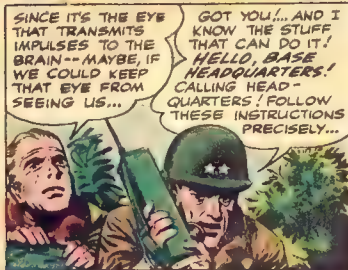
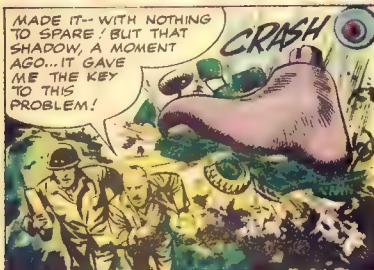
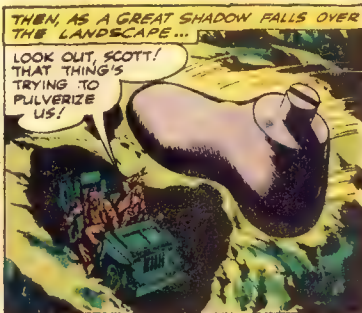
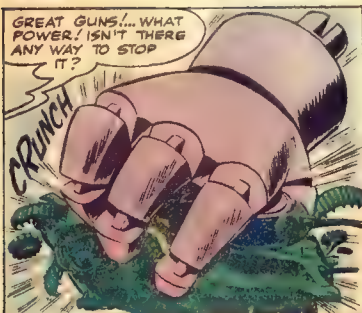
WITH ITS "SIGHT" RESTORED, THE HAND
STRIKES WITH TERRIFYING SPEED...



RUN FOR
YOUR LIFE, MAC!
A HAND THAT
CAN TEAR UP
BUILDINGS WILL
MAKE CHOPPED
MEAT OUT OF
THIS TANK!

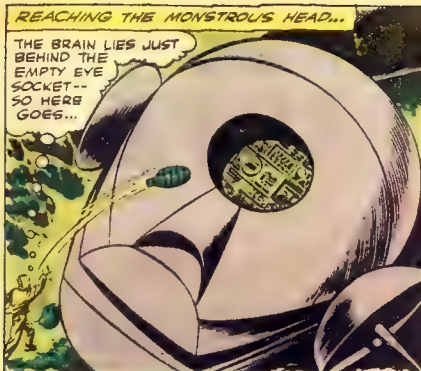


HOUSE OF SECRETS



REACHING THE MONSTROUS HEAD...

THE BRAIN LIES JUST
BEHIND THE
EMPTY EYE
SOCKET--
SO HERE
GOES...



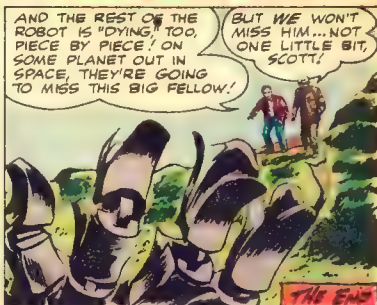
AND IN A MATTER OF SECONDS...

YOU WERE RIGHT,
SCOTT!... WITH THE
BRAIN DEAD, THE
EYE IS CRASHING
TO EARTH!



AND THE REST OF THE
ROBOT IS "DYING," TOO,
PIECE BY PIECE! ON
SOME PLANET OUT IN
SPACE, THEY'RE GOING
TO MISS THIS BIG FELLOW!

BUT WE WON'T
MISS HIM...NOT
ONE LITTLE BIT,
SCOTT!



JUST IMAGINE!

SUPERMAN!
BATMAN!
FLASH!
GREEN LANTERN!
WONDER WOMAN!
AQUAMAN!
JOHN J'ONZZ

ALL

IN A
FULL-LENGTH STORY
IN EVERY ISSUE OF



SECRET OF THE SNOWS

ITUK knew, although he couldn't understand their language completely, that Bogart and Daly were enemies. Why two men who displayed such hostility towards one another were partners in an oil and meteorological expedition on a little island north of Baffin Bay in the Arctic, he could never fathom. But then, he was only the leader of their Eskimo crew, and it wasn't his business. If he had to choose sides, he'd have favored Bogart because of his kindness towards Ituk and the other natives.

Both men were impressed by the strange ways of the north, and Ituk made it his business to offer an explanation whenever he could. A week after they had made camp, he had escorted Bogart and Daly into the snowy wastelands, loaded with instruments. Even as they trekked towards the area delineated on their maps, their breath condensed and became visible. They had just set down their gear when they became aware of long trails of vapor moving swiftly along the snow.

Ituk started to explain, but was interrupted by Daly. "Never mind! I'll read about it in front of a cheery fireplace one day," he snapped. "Let's get this job over with!"

The two men scaled a slope for some preliminary surveying. Ituk busied himself unpacking their instruments when he heard a hoarse cry, wheeled in time to see Daly push Bogart off, loosening tons of snow that inundated him.

It took them two hours to dig him out. They could just as well have left him there.

Daly scowled at Ituk. "You didn't see anything, is that clear? When I report this to the police back at Devon Island, I'll say Bogart met with an accident. Understand? You'd better agree to back me up, or you'll also have an accident one of these days."

Ituk looked meaningfully at Daly. "No, you bad man. You make other man die. I see. I cannot live with lie. I must tell police when they question me."

"I'll make sure you never get the chance," rasped Daly. He had a moment's difficulty withdrawing the pistol from its holster with his gloved hand, but there it was pointed at Ituk.

In a flash of a second, Ituk reasoned he couldn't attack and hope to overpower the six-foot figure menacing him. Running in the snow would only get him so far before he would be downed. Not too far off, he saw the long trails of vapor they'd spotted before. He caught the surprised look in Daly's face as he shoved him back, toppling him into the snow, and ran . . . ran downwind, fear and desperation flailing his feet.

The dozen clouds of vapor were immobile, seemingly rooted to the ground. Ituk slipped among them, and vanished. He listened, and heard, "Ituk! I can't see you, but I'll find you! You won't get away from me!" He listened, and heard the grunts and muttered threats of the approaching hunter. There was no longer any place to hide.

A slight, suspicious sound caused Daly to level his pistol among the mysterious vaporous formations. The crack of gunfire shattered the stillness, and a dozen frightened deer shot off. To Daly, it seemed as if Ituk had stepped out of space itself. Staring at him incredulously, he didn't have the chance to defend himself as Ituk bore down on him and retrieved the pistol hurled from his fist.

Daly sprawled in the snow, still looked at Ituk in disbelief. "I didn't see you," he said. "Where'd you suddenly come from?"

"When we see vapor trails before, lucky you no give me chance to explain, or you know I hide in *deer herd*! It so cold here, breath freeze and can be seen. Vaporized perspiration can be seen, too. When deer runs, he leave long vapor trail. When he stops, it surround him. He lost inside. You see only vapor, not deer. I lose myself among them. Now, you get on feet. We have long way to police base."

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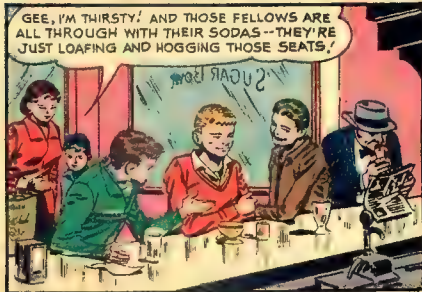
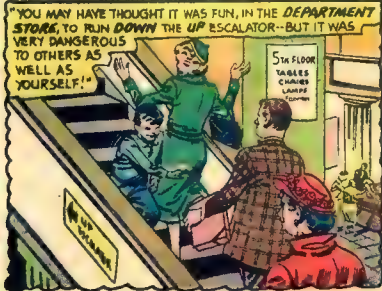
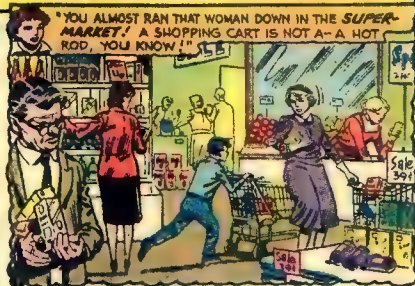
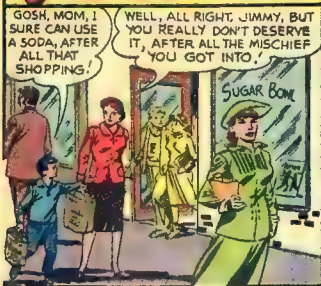
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HOW ARE *Your* SHOPPING MANNERS?



THE WEIRD WORLD OF ANTON BORKA

THEY CALLED HIM "THE STRANGE ONE" ... AND WHO COULD BLAME THEM? AFTER ALL, WHAT WERE THEY TO THINK WHEN THEY THEMSELVES COULD NOT SEE...

LOOK-- PLEASE...
DON'T *YOU* SEE
THEM?

HA, HA...
CRAZY ANTON--
HE SEES INVISIBLE
CREATURES!

IT IS USELESS
TO ARGUE WITH
THEM, ANTON...
THEY CANNOT
SEE US, AS YOU
DO!

HOWARD
PURCELL

THE STRANGE, UNFATHOMABLE TALE OF ANTON BORKA
BEGAN IN HIS YOUTH, ON HIS FATHER'S FARM...

HERE, ANTON, TAKE THIS GOAT'S MILK TO THE VILLAGE AND SELL IT...
AND DO NOT DAWDLE ON THE WAY!

YES,
FATHER!

ANTON FLEW GAILY DOWN THE ROAD WHEN
SUDDENLY...

HELP ME! NEITHER
FOOD NOR DRINK HAS
PASSED MY LIPS IN
DAYS!

POOR MAN...I
WILL HELP HIM!
NO ONE WILL KNOW
IF A SIP OR TWO
OF THE MILK IS
MISSING!



HOUSE OF SECRETS



BUT BEFORE ANTON COULD STOP THE OLD MAN...

NO! NO! YOU HAVE FINISHED IT **ALL!** WHAT WILL MY FATHER SAY?



FEAR NOT, LAD...FOR YOUR KINDNESS, I SHALL REWARD YOU! THESE THREE SEEDS WILL BRING YOU WEALTH AND HAPPINESS...GUARD THEM WELL!

I DON'T WANT THEM...THEY ARE NOT WORTH A PAIL OF GOOD GOAT'S MILK! MY FATHER WILL BOX MY EARS FOR THIS!

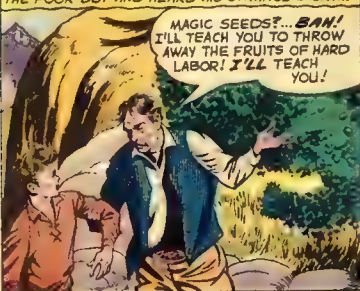


WITH MIXED FEAR AND SORROW, ANTON RETREATED TO HIS FAVORITE MOUNTAIN-TOP...



THESE THREE SEEDS ARE INDEED STRANGE-LOOKING... COULD THEY REALLY HAVE SOME MAGIC POWER? NO...THE OLD MAN ONLY SAID THAT TO TRICK ME! WHAT A FOOL I HAVE BEEN!

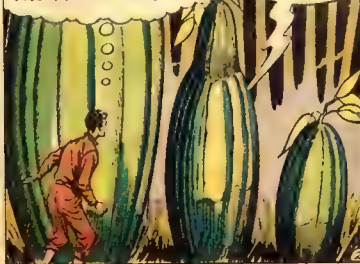
INDEED, WHEN ANTON'S FATHER SEARCHED OUT THE POOR BOY AND HEARD HIS STRANGE STORY...



MAGIC SEEDS?...**BAN!** I'LL TEACH YOU TO THROW AWAY THE FRUITS OF HARD LABOR! I'LL TEACH YOU!

GIANT FRUITS! THEY LOOK SOMEWHAT LIKE MELONS-- BUT SUCH STRANGE ONES! AND I SEEM TO HEAR VOICES FROM WITHIN THEM!

FREE US, ANTON! FREE US AND WE WILL MAKE YOU RICH!



BUT SEVERAL DAYS LATER, DRIVEN BY THE CURIOSITY THAT GNAWED WITHIN HIM, ANTON RETURNED TO THE MOUNTAIN-TOP...



IT WAS NEAR HERE THAT FATHER THREW AWAY THE SEEDS! PERHAPS I CAN--
WAIT!... WHAT IS THAT?



WITH TREMBLING HAND, ANTON PLUNGED A KNIFE INTO THE WEIRD FRUITS-- AND FROM THEM EMERGED...

THREE CREATURES! WHAT HAVE I DONE?... BROUGHT THEIR EVIL UPON THE WORLD?

NO, ANTON! WE ARE THE **GOLAS**, WHO HAVE COME TO HELP YOU! GO NOW TO YOUR HOME, AND AWAIT THE GOOD FORTUNE WE SHALL SEND YOU!

EVEN AS ANTON TALKED WITH HIS NEW "FRIENDS," PRYING EYES SECRETLY WATCHED HIM...

IF EVER YOU ARE IN GREAT TROUBLE, COME HERE! BUT REMEMBER, TELL NO ONE OF US... FOR ONLY YOU CAN SEE AND HEAR US!

TEE-HEE-HEE...

AT THE SOUND OF BOYISH LAUGHTER, ANTON QUICKLY FORGOT THE CREATURES' ADVICE...

CRAZY ANTON! HE TALKS TO HIMSELF! HA-HA-HA!

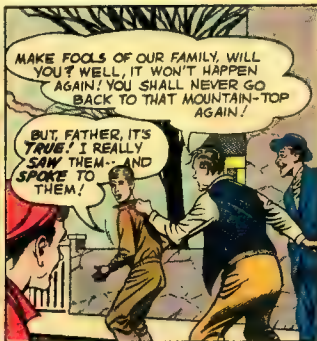
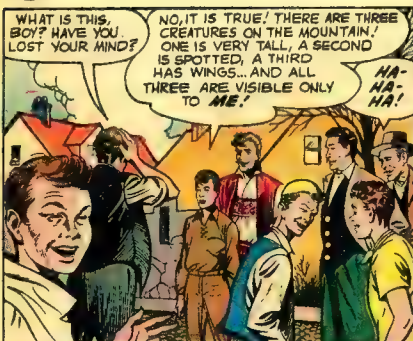
NO, FREDRIC, NOT TO MYSELF! DON'T YOU SEE THE THREE CREATURES?

WHAT THREE CREATURES? THERE IS NO ONE THERE! CRAZY ANTON!... HE TALKS TO **INVISIBLE CREATURES!**

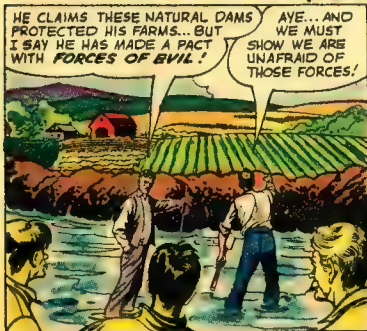
THEY CANNOT SEE US, ANTON... IT IS USELESS! YOU HAD BETTER GO!

OBEEDIENTLY, ANTON RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE, PRECEDED BY DERISIVE VOICES...

CRAZY ANTON TALKS TO INVISIBLE CREATURES! CRAZY ANTON THINKS HE SEES WHAT NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE!



THOUGH ANTON HEEDED HIS FATHER'S WORDS, EVEN AFTER THE OLD MAN PASSED AWAY, STRANGE EVENTS TRANSPIRED IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED...

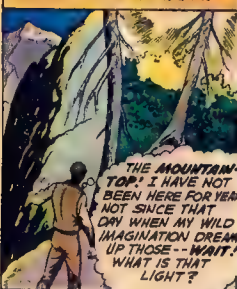




HOUSE OF SECRETS



BEBUILDING AND FORLORN, ANTON RACED OFF AIMLESSLY--UNTIL NIGHTFALL FOUND HIM UPON...



THE MOUNTAIN-TOP! I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE FOR YEARS--NOT SINCE THAT DAY WHEN MY WILD IMAGINATION DREAMED UP THOSE--WAIT!--WHAT IS THAT LIGHT?

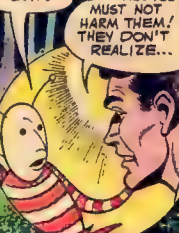
YOU! THEN IT WAS NOT MY IMAGINATION... YOU HAVE BEEN HERE ALL THESE YEARS!



OF COURSE WE HAVE, ANTON! IT IS WE WHO HAVE WATCHED OVER YOUR FORTUNE... WE WHO CREATED THOSE WALLS THAT PROTECTED YOUR FIELDS!



BUT NOW, YOUR JEALOUS NEIGHBORS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND! THEY HAVE DESTROYED THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR... THEY MUST PAY FOR THEIR EVIL!



NO! YOU MUST NOT HARM THEM! THEY DON'T REALIZE...

BUT BEFORE ANTON COULD STOP THEM, THE WEIRD CREATURES BEGAN DESCENDING FROM THEIR MOUNTAIN LAIR...

OUR VENGEFUL WRATH THOSE FOOLS SHALL KNOW BY FLAME AND ROCK AND ANGRY SNOW!



TH--THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO--EXCEPT WARN THE PEOPLE!

OUTRACING THE CREATURES, ANTON SOON REACHED THE TOWN, WHERE...

SAVE YOURSELVES! THE CREATURES COME TO AVENGE ME!



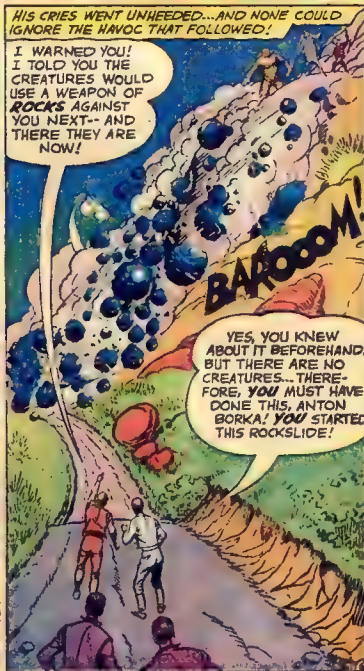
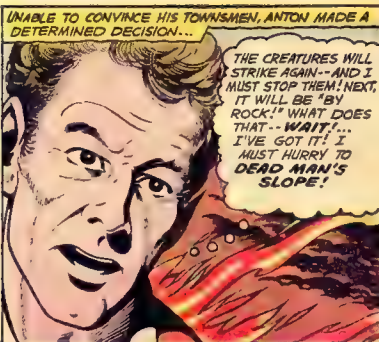
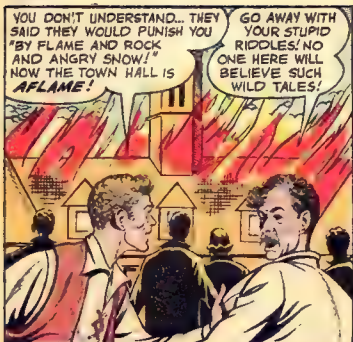
STOP THAT FOOL'S TALK OF CREATURES! AND GO TO YOUR HOME... A STORM IS BREWING!

MINUTES LATER...

SEE!--THEY HURL FIREBALLS--AT THE TOWN HALL!



WE SEE NO CREATURES OR FIREBALLS! IT IS LIGHTNING THAT STRIKES THE TOWN HALL!



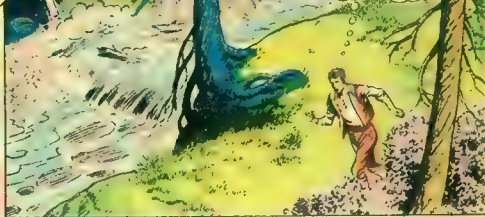
UNABLE TO REASON WITH THEM, ANTON RACED OFF, JUST AS...

LOOK!... THE SNOW IS MELTING FROM THE MOUNTAIN-TOP... THE RIVER WILL FLOOD AT ANY MOMENT!

HE PREDICTED IT... "ANGRY SNOW," HE SAID! NOTHING CAN SAVE US NOW!

SOON...

JUST AS I FEARED... ALREADY, THE RIVER IS SWOLLEN WITH MELTED SNOW-- AND THE GREATEST DANGER POINT IS THE MAIN BRIDGE, JUST AHEAD! THE CREATURES ARE ALREADY THERE!



STOP IT! DON'T WEAKEN THE BRIDGE! THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO HELP ME!

WHY, ANTON? ARE WE NOT REPAYING YOUR ENEMIES?



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY BLAME ME FOR THESE DISASTERS! I CAN NEVER LIVE IN PEACE WITH THEM NOW!

AHH... FORGIVE US, ANTON--WE HAVE BEEN FOOLISH... BUT WE WILL HELP YOU TO SET IT RIGHT!



IN A DESPERATE STAND AGAINST THE RAGING RIVER, ANTON WAS JOINED BY A STRANGE TRIO OF FLOOD FIGHTERS...

FASTER! FASTER!



WHEN THE TOWNSMEN ARRIVED, A FANTASTIC SIGHT MET THEIR EYES, WHICH WERE STILL POWERLESS TO SEE THE CREATURES...

LOOK!... ANTON WORKS TO SAVE THE BRIDGE-- AND SHOVELS MOVE THROUGH THE AIR TO HELP HIM! HOW CAN THIS BE?

THAT PROVES IT... ANTON IS BEWITCHED!





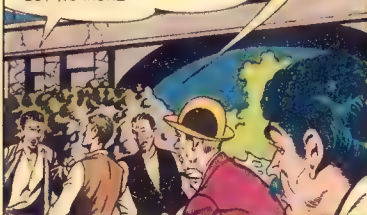
HOUSE OF SECRETS



AND THOUGH THE WEIRD DISASTER CREW FINALLY WON ITS BATTLE, ANTON WAS NOT FREE OF TROUBLE.

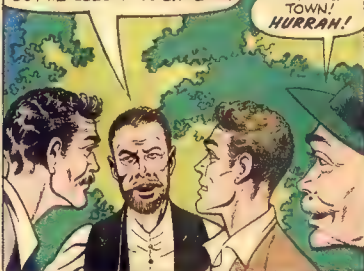
NOW WE KNOW THE TRUTH...YOU HAVE MADE SOME STRANGE PACT WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL! THEY DO YOUR BIDDING AGAINST US... BUT NO MORE!

WAIT! DON'T HARM HIM!



HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT ANTON SAVED THE BRIDGE? I CANNOT EXPLAIN THIS POWER OF HIS, BUT HE USED IT TO **SAVE US!**

YES! YES! ANTON WORKED FOR THE TOWN! **HURRAH!**



NOW YOU HAVE EVERYTHING, ANTON...GOOD FORTUNE AND GOOD FRIENDS! YOU NEED US NO LONGER... WE RETURN TO **OUR** WORLD!



GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS!

WHO WAS HE TALKING TO? AND WHY DOES HE WAVE AND SMILE UP AT THE AIR?

WHO CAN SAY? AFTER HIS WORK TODAY, NO ONE WILL CALL HIM **CRAZY ANTON...** FOR MAYBE IT WAS **WE** WHO WERE CRAZY!

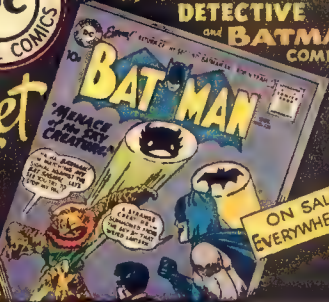
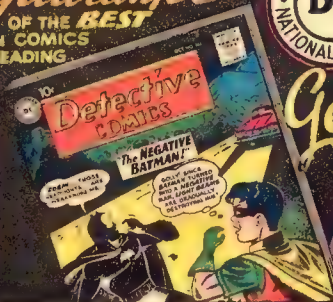


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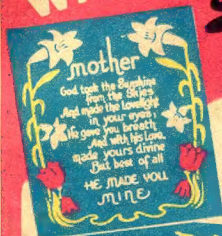
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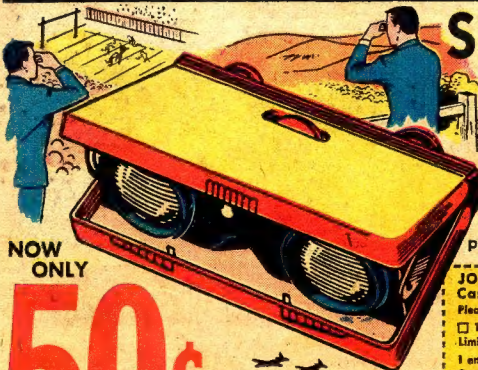
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JUST tell me where you want it—
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wonder!

Do you want me to broaden your
shoulders—put trip-hammer power in
both your arms—make your
legs two pillars of strength?
Then just check what you
want below. You can get it
in just 15 minutes a day —
in your own home — or it
won't cost you a penny!

I don't care if you are 15
or 50 years old, I can
give you a "barrel
chest" and a vise-like
grip. I can shoot new
strength into your old
backbone, exercise
those inner organs —
help you cram your body so full
of pep, vigor and red-blooded
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even "standing room" left for
weakness and that lazy feeling.
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like a high-powered dynamo! You'll feel and look

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"Gained 29 lbs.
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your course I
weighed only 141.
Now I weigh 170."

—T. K., New York

"The benefits are
wonderful. The first
week my arm in-
creased one inch,
my chest two in-
ches."

—E. M., Conn.

"You changed me
from a weakling to
a real he-man.
My chest has gone
up 6 inches. I am
a solid mass of
muscle."

—J. W., Montana

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Body I Want:

(Check as many as you like)

- ☐ More Weight—Solid—in The Right Places
- ☐ Broader Chest and Shoulders
- ☐ More Powerful Arms and Grip
- ☐ Slimmer Waist and Hips
- ☐ More Powerful Leg Muscles
- ☐ Better Sleep, More Energy

Send me absolutely FREE a copy of your
famous book showing how "Dynamic Tension"
can make me a new man. 32 pages, crammed
with photographs, answers to vital health
questions, and valuable advice. I understand
this book is mine to keep and sending for it
does not obligate me in any way.

Name.....Age.....
(Please print or write plainly)

Address.....
City &
Zone.....State.....



It's Easy To Have Plenty Of

EXTRA MONEY

FOR ANYTHING
YOU WANT
TO BUY

You Make
As Much As **50¢ to \$1.25**
On Every **MIDWEST**
GREETING CARD ASSORTMENT!

Do you want money? Just send us your name and address. We'll rush you our complete money-making outfit, including 3 new and beautiful Christmas and All Occasion Card Assortments on approval for **FREE TRIAL**. After school or whenever you choose, just show these samples to people you know and you'll make good money fast. You don't need experience. All you need is the sample outfit!

Midwest Makes Money-Making Fun!

Almost everyone needs Greeting Cards . . . and your neighbors, family friends, storekeepers and other folks would rather buy from you. By simply taking their orders for our big values in gorgeous new Christmas and All-Occasion Greeting Card Assortments, Gift Novelties, Personalized Stationery and Costume Jewelry at \$1 and up—you can quickly make as much as you need—whether it's \$10.00 or \$110.00—for anything you want! You keep as much as 50¢ to \$1.25 per item as your big cash profit.

Send For Your Samples NOW!

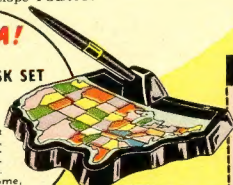
We trust you. Just mail the coupon. We'll send you the 3 big Assortments (\$3.75 retail value) together with full information on how to begin making extra money right away. Don't pay us a cent until you have tried for yourself. Then pay only the low wholesale cost, or return the 3 boxes and owe nothing. Extra! We'll include **FREE** Album of Personalized Christmas Cards and **FREE** "Get-Started" Offer of \$1.25 U.S. Map Desk Set. Be first in your neighborhood. Make enough money for anything you want! Paste the coupon on a postcard or mail it in an envelope **TODAY!**

EXTRA!

\$1.25
U. S. MAP DESK SET

FREE On
"Get-Started" Offer

Deluxe ball point
pen held in large,
handy tray con-
taining color refer-
ence map of U.S.
For students, home,
office. Gift boxed



MAIL THE COUPON!

MIDWEST CARD COMPANY
1113 Washington Ave., Dept. 403-D, St. Louis 1, Mo.



If You Want Extra Money,
We'll Send You These 3
New Items On Free Trial!

21-Card

ROYAL HIGHNESS
Christmas Assortment

Smart new
greetings in the
modern man-
ner—slim, tall
and lovely. Each
card is fully 8 1/4"
tall!

Sells For
\$1.25



20-Card **STUDIO BOX**
All-Occasion Assortment

Clever greetings for
birthdays and
cheer-up occasions
that say it with a
chuckle. Very popu-
lar. Big, colorful
cards worth 25¢
each.

Sells For **\$1.25**

21-Card
**WATER COLOR
MAGIC**

Christmas Assortment

Enchantingly lovely
water color master-
pieces of holiday sub-
jects rendered in soft
pastel tones on
artist's board with
gold borders. A truly
deluxe selection.

Sells For **\$1.25**



MAIL NOW FOR SAMPLES!

MIDWEST CARD CO., Dept. 403-D
1113 Washington Ave., St. Louis 1, Mo.

Please send 3 new Assortments on approval with complete money-making outfit of samples as advertised. Include **FREE** "Get-Started" Offer of \$1.25 U.S. Map Desk Set. (Limit: one coupon to a family.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zone _____

State _____